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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Wednesday, 5 June 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (continued)

- Other matters

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

SPIN-OFF BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS (continued)

Mr. BONEV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from Russian): There are four practical benefits of space technology to the economy of States. Two of these are well known: remote sensing of the Earth from space and the use of specialized satellites, such as those devoted to communications, meteorology, navigation, rescue operations and so on. The third is manufacturing in space and the fourth is making use of space-related activities on Earth; these two have not yet been fully covered in the literature.

Here are some timely questions: What are we gaining from space technology? What is the interaction between space and terrestrial technologies? There is a dynamic, two-stage process at play here. We have at our disposal a large body of knowledge on subjects related to space; this is supplemented by a body of knowledge and technology generated by space-related activities themselves. That knowledge can be applied to non-space-related science and technology. This feedback process began in the 1960s and is now very significant.

We have been using space-related achievements in our economies, which can yield significant scientific and technological progress. To achieve this, there must be a State programme to apply space-related achievements in the economy; a State body must be established to coordinate the programme nationwide. The experience of leading space-faring States and their outer space agencies is illustrative in this regard.

(Mr. Bonev, Bulgaria)

The process is all the more important as space programmes are inadequately subsidized, making it vital to find additional funding. On the other hand, annual spending on mankind's space programmes is estimated at $500 billion - a considerable sum - and it is understandable that we should be interested in at least partial compensation for our expenditures in this area.

For that and other reasons, there has been new interaction between the space and non-space sectors: spin-off. We can elucidate that term by speaking of the donor role of space activities. In any event, I believe these benefits should be called "derivative", not "spin-off" benefits, as they have by now acquired their own distinctive nature.

In the narrow sense, this means extracting material benefits from the use of space-related achievements. We see this in practically all areas of industry, transportation, agriculture, forestry, medicine and other fields.

Here, all manner of interesting issues arise that can be subjects for discussion. One impressive example, in the energy industry, is the possibility of removing from Earth radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants. There are, of course, many problems to be solved in that connection, but the use of space technology for the guaranteed removal of radioactive wastes holds out some hope to mankind.

Bulgaria has participated in a number of programmes related to manned and unmanned space objects, including those connected with the orbital station Mir. We have developed new space systems and technologies; jointly with our partners we have access to high-level technology that could be used successfully to protect the environment - not merely to monitor the environment, but even to cleanse it. That technology can also be used

(Mr. Bonev, Bulgaria)

innovatively in medicine, fire-fighting, refrigeration, textiles, and so forth. We are ready to cooperate with other countries to accelerate the implementation of these technologies.

Most useful in that connection is the experience of States and agencies that have already made great progress in spin-off benefits. We consider that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can be of great help here. As we approach International Space Year, we consider that the inclusion of these matters on the Committee's agenda was both justified and timely. It has been a mere 30 years since we first glimpsed the Earth from outer space, and mankind will seek to draw up a balance sheet of space activities during International Space Year. In addition to the main issues, the question of spin-off benefits will be of special significance in that regard.

We think it would be most useful in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, alongside the brilliant papers on remote sensing and other priority issues, to include the question of space technology and its applications on Earth. This would address real-life needs and would help the international community in its examination of space activities in the context of "Mission to Planet Earth".

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): Over the past several years the United States has made presentations to this Committee on the secondary benefits which have resulted from our national space research programmes. Those secondary applications and uses have had a significant economic impact, both nationally and internationally, through the development of new and improved commercial products and processes.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

My delegation will be providing to the Secretariat at Headquarters in New York multiple copies of the most recent publication of our National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on spin-offs. We would suggest that delegations interested in obtaining a copy have their Missions contact the Outer Space Affairs Division.

For today I should like to touch briefly on some of the information contained in our annual spin-offs publication.

NASA is developing a wide range of new cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, artificial self-sustaining ecological systems, virtual-reality simulators and ultra-high-strength and high-temperature-resistant materials. Many of those technologies have spin-off applications.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

For example, in the area of medicine and health sciences, vision research conducted by NASA for astronaut training has led to the development of a commercial optical electronic system which can be used to teach patients how to contract and relax the focusing muscle of the eye. Such training could eliminate the need for corrective lenses or surgery for patients who are nearsighted or farsighted. Another example is the dry-heat sterilization system developed by NASA to decontaminate the Viking spacecraft. The technique is now used for the sterilization of medical instruments, reducing sterilization time to one tenth the time required by traditional methods.

Spin-off technologies have also found a place in environmental applications, particularly in the educational context. One such spin-off is a unique software program called GemPak, which enables meteorology students to study weather patterns and prepare forecasts based on collected weather data. The GemPak software allows students to view multiple perspectives of the complex three-dimensional atmospheric structure. Another example is NASA's work on controlled ecological life-support systems (CELSS). In addition to the potential space-based applications for CELSS, researchers have also developed environmentally controlled chambers which enhance the growth of agricultural products without soil.

Spin-off benefits in the industrial and manufacturing sectors have also been realized. One notable example is in the area of steel production. Based on research investigating spacecraft re-entry, a commercial plasma torch for steel-plant applications has been developed. The new torch may be the key to making steel production cheaper, cleaner and faster. Another example is a recently developed NASA process for coating and chemically bonding a thin film

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

of diamond-like carbon to various surfaces. This patented technique has been licensed to a commercial firm for application to a host of consumer and industrial products including camera lenses, ball bearings, watch crystals and metal-cutting tools.

Spin-off applications of NASA research have even been realized in the music industry. Using a wide range of aerospace techniques and materials, including acoustic research, high-strength bonding materials and aircraft tooling equipment, a commercial manufacturer has produced an acoustic harp which can be played merely by passing the hand through an electromagnetic signal.

It has been our experience that realizing the spin-off benefits of space technology does not occur automatically. At NASA the transfer and application of space technology is accomplished through the Technology Utilization Program, which is designed to alert industrial users to new NASA scientific and technological advances and to provide an effective means for the transfer and adaptation of such advances for users in both the private and the public sectors of the economy.

Towards that end, NASA sponsors 16 Centers for the Commercial Development of Space with participation from the private sector, the academic community and the public sector. These centres act as focal points for the transfer of technology and ideas. A second important vehicle for stimulating space spin-offs is NASA's participation in the Small Business Innovative Research Program. The objective of that programme is to strengthen the role of small businesses in federal research and development programmes while promoting the dissemination of technological advances through the exchange of information.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

In addition, NASA's patent-licensing programme actively promotes the application and use of aerospace technologies for which NASA patents have been filed. Since most NASA-developed technologies usually require further development and marketing to bring an invention to the commercial marketplace, some degree of exclusivity is granted with NASA licenses. A number of NASA-owned patents are available for foreign licensing to firms located outside the United States.

A final mechanism used to enhance technology transfer is the NASA publication NASA Tech Briefs. That monthly magazine announces new NASA-developed technologies and concepts considered to have broad potential commerical use. Until recently NASA Tech Briefs was not available outside the United States. That is no longer the case. I am pleased to note that this past January an international edition of NASA Tech Briefs was produced and is now in circulation. We are confident that this step will enhance international access to newly developed spin-off technologies.

On a final note, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the study prepared by the Secretariat on spin-off benefits of space technology. In our view it presents a very clear account of the spin-off applications of space technology and of the process for transfering technology to the public and private sectors.

Mr. DAO VONG DUC (Viet Nam): Let me first express the deep gratitude of the delegation of Viet Nam to the organizing committee and especially to the authorities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for having made it possible for us to come to the wonderful city of Graz to

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

participate in the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This is the fourth time my colleague and I have taken part in such a session, and we are most impressed.

I should like to take this opportunity to present an outline of space and remote sensing activities in Viet Nam. Frankly, remote sensing is a newly introduced technology in Viet Nam, and its applications are still in their infancy. Nevertheless, aware of its immense potential, our Government agencies have recently intensified space and remote sensing activities, placing them in recent years among Viet Nam's priority development programmes.

As a developing country, Viet Nam considers the use of remote sensing techniques for surveying natural resources and environmental conditions for developing the national economy as the main object of our programme of space research and applications. In our country remote sensing plays an important role in planning various agricultural activities by providing adequate information on major land-use patterns, soil-water resources, forest inventory, flooding, vegetation, coastal changes, erosion, accretion and so forth.

The area of Viet Nam is about 330,000 square kilometres located in the monsoon region, with rather complicated land forms and geological conditions. Viet Nam has a population of some 65 million in an agriculture-based economy recovering from many years of deterioration. Therefore there is an urgent need for precision data to identify and enumerate our natural resources in the areas of forestry, agriculture and aquaculture for the purposes of environmental protection and resource planning and development. Thus the

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

utilization of the latest remote sensing technology to shorten research time and upgrade the efficiency of data collection has a great significance in geological mapping as well as in weather and tropical storm forecasting.

In 1980 the National Committee for Space Research and Applications was founded with representatives from various branches of science and technology. It has been assigned the task of defining the direction of programmes to apply the results of space research and remote sensing to development of the national economy and of coordinating remote sensing activities throughout the country.

With the implementation of the UNDP-FAO project on the utilization of remote sensing data for the assessment of agricultural resources, some equipment has been supplied for photo interpretation and image processing. Facilities for visual interpretation techniques and a centre for automatic digital interpretation techniques have also been set up. Some ground stations have been installed to receive cloud pictures from meteorologcal satellites such as GMS-3 and NOAA. Attempts are now being made to study the dynamics of cyclones, their formation, structure and movement.

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

Under the sponsorship of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Regional Remote Sensing Programme, a pilot project on the analysis of remote sensing data for the assessment of natural conditions and natural resources has recently been implemented. Its objective is to study the coastal dynamics of rivers, including erosion, accretion and biological evolution, using new LANDSAT and SPOT data.

In forestry, remote sensing techniques have been appliced to the compilation of vegetation maps. Attempts are being made to use digital image-processing techniques for monitoring the changes in forest land.

In recent years a programme has been carried out to study physical phenomena of the atmosphere with the help of ground installations. Efforts are also concentrated on exploiting the possibilities of telecommunication satellies to improve radiocommunications with other countries.

In conclusion, I would say that in space remote sensing activities we have achieved some modest preliminary results. This encouraging factor is closely related to international and regional cooperation, thanks to which we have had the advantage of training scientific and technical staff and the opportunity to send many specialists to famous laboratories abroad annually for long-term training as well as for short periods to attend international meetings and to exchange experiences.

In short, we can say, with great appreciation, that Viet Nam has greatly benefited from participation in international cooperation, and we will do our best to strengthen it.

Mr. OWOSENI (Nigeria): Having made some general remarks on the spin-off benefits of space technology in its earlier statement in the general exchange of views, the Nigerian delegation wishes to comment specifically on

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

the study by the Secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division on "Spin-off benefits of space technology," in document A/AC.105/486 of 30 April 1991. We all recall that that study is the result of a recommendation by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-third session in 1990. We therefore commend the speed and diligence with which the Secretariat carried out this important task.

This is the third year since 1989 that this agenda item has been considered in the Committee. Although a relatively new item on the agenda, the question of the spin-off benefits of space technology is for us the single most important linkage on space matters between the vast majority of mankind that has no direct access to space science and the few that do. Thus, the study has a particular significance to many of us from developing countries whose very survival and development are intrinsically woven around the applications of modern science and technology in various socio-economic spheres. In this regard we welcome the conscious direction of the study, as stated in paragraph 4 of the prefatory section entitled "Background," that it is intended

> "to provide Member States with a review of the spin-off process and examples of actual and potential spin-off technologies, applications and benefits"

and

> "as a basis for considering what the international community might do to promote access by all countries to the potential spin-off benefits of space technology." (A/AC.105/486, p. 3)

Turning to the main aspects of the study, my delegation notes the various aspects of spin-offs, starting from its definition, process and study and extending to numerous examples of spin-off applications in medical monitoring

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

and diagnosis, medical treatment, public and environmental safety, development of new technologies in different fields, industrial and data processing and energy and agriculture. We are particularly drawn to several areas of spin-off benefits covered by the study in pargraphs 29 to 93, including the Low Intensity X-ray Imaging Scope - Lixiscope - for emergency medical diagnosis, the use of lasers and fibre optics for treating obstructed coronary arteries without surgery, new protective coatings for structures and experimental solar systems for domestic power utilities, to mention but a few.

An appraisal of those examples of space technology spin-offs, however, reveals two main characteristics. First, as new technologies adapted for commercialization, they are invariably very costly and thus outside the reach of poor peoples and countries. Secondly, since the spin-offs result from technologies that are mainly considered sensitive, the development and stimulation of the benefits are virtually internally oriented in the technologically developed societies originating them or are patented exclusively to regulated domestic industries for commercialization. An examination of the various applications in section III, paragraph 94 to 111 of the study, reveals that while tangible steps have been taken by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and other national programmes in the USSR, Japan, France and India to encourage the transfer of space technology through spin-offs to other sectors of the economy, it would appear that international cooperation in this regard has been lacking, since the study contains no mention of any conscious efforts to transfer some of the technologies for spin-off benefits, especially to the developing countries.

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

Hence, we find appropriate the conclusion of the study, which states, inter alia, that spin-off applications in various fields will quickly spread to other countries through trade, education, technical assistance or other forms of technology transfer, that international efforts to enable more countries to gain more benefits from the spin-off applications should be focused on improving the exchange of information relating to actual and potential spin-off technologies, applications and benefits and that the Committee could play a useful role in promoting by various means the enhancement of spin-off benefits to other nations.

People in the street - and not only in the developing countries but in technologically advanced societies as well - often ask what is gained by spending billions of dollars on outer space exploration when there are crying calls for solutions to pressing earthly problems. In our view, the answer lies in closely linking space science and technology and the exploration and utilization of outer space with the welfare and material betterment of our human societies and global environment. Spin-off benefits thus constitute some of the key linkages in this regard.

In addition to the conclusion reached by the study in A/AC.105/486, my delegation would propose the following measures as a means of fostering the much-needed international cooperation in the redistribution of spin-offs and transfer of related technologies to the disadvantaged developing countries.

First, there is the establishment of joint partnerships, commercial ventures or shared patent rights between the industrial conglomerates operating in space nations and companies in the developing countries in the production and marketing of simple, practical technologies specifically tailored to developing societies and modeled on the original spin-off technologies. This would reduce the over-all costs and simplify their local

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

applications. For example, this type of technological adaptation has led to the production and extensive marketing in Nigeria of simple, portable domestic gas cookers, which produce virtually the same cooking functions as the heavy ones used in homes, but at about one tenth the cost of the latter and thus within easy reach of millions of our people. The adaptation to local conditions and commercialization of such spin-offs are indeed possible through the multinational corporations operating in virtually all the developing nations.

Secondly, there should be a regular organization by the technologically advanced countries of trade fairs in spin-off technologies in the developing countries to elicit the latter's interest as well as to publicize the benefits of space technology that have so far been largely unknown.

Thirdly, there should be a conscious dissemination to the public and educational institutions, through films, literature, seminars and so on, of the spin-off benefits of space technology and their application in various spheres of human development.

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

For example, the Apollo moon landing by American astronauts was shown in films throughout Nigerian educational institutions in 1970, kindling or sparking the interest of my own generation of Nigerians in space matters. We believe that the same could be done for spin-off benefits of space technologies.

Fourthly, the space Powers should develop the awareness and interest of the technologically disadvantaged societies and countries in spin-off benefits by donating unaffordable, but valuable, equipment and materials - such as the wheelchairs and X-ray and diagnostic appliances mentioned in the study - to public hospitals and medical centres, research institutions, colleges of technology and other public centres where the physical examples and advantages of spin-off technologies from space exploration would convey a more vivid and lasting impression and awareness than could otherwise be attained.

Mr. MENICOCCI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The growing importance of the exploration and utilization of outer space places upon us the obligation to ensure that the spin-off benefits of space science and technology are within reach of all countries as well as an obligation to enable the developing countries to achieve the essential conditions necessary to go beyond being mere consumers of space services and products.

It is clear that man's activity in outer space has provided benefits in direct proportion to the investments made by the main space operators, and it is also clear that the implementation of national or regional space programmes has resulted in decisions that have established priorities over other activities and requirements of the country or region whatever the cost, even to the sacrifice of human lives.

It is also clear that the benefits derived from space activities are not all equally available to all members of the international community. We must

(Mr. Menicocci, Argentina)

therefore discuss how we can promote, facilitate and implement the process of participation.

Our delegation believes that a process of participation inevitably entails a transfer of technology at some level, without going into aspects related to design, development or production methods. The mere use of those technologies cannot be contemplated in isolation, but is an inherent part of a complex and multifaceted context.

The complexity is due not only to the political and socio-economic implications involved in any technology transfer - the emergence of a possible competitor, for example - but to the fact that space technology is advanced technology. In the transfer process we note that there is a tendency among the recipients to aspire to state-of-the-art technology, which creates a considerable complication, since the absorption of sophisticated technology presupposes a basic investment in education, research and development.

On the other hand, for the possessors of technology - even where there is an expressed will to transfer, possibly because of the need to create new consumers and new markets - the lack of a reliable regime to protect intellectual property and the difficulty of verifying the end use of the technology being transferred discourage initiatives or result in the adoption of control measures that, far from tackling the basic problem, namely, potential misuse, merely have unintended discriminatory effects, such as a self-imposed withdrawal to the sidelines of the whole process with a concomitant loss of opportunity to transfer experiences as well.

International depolarization, which has been a much-sought common goal in recent years, today requires daring and imaginative initiatives that can contribute to the process of détente. However, we must attempt to arrive at a

(Mr. Menicocci, Argentina)

realistic position from which, while keeping our feet firmly planted on the ground, we can aspire in our minds to the stars.

Our delegation believes that that position could include explicitly structured norms that, rather than restricting the rights of some countries to produce what they have developed and obtain returns on their investments or prevent others from having access to technology by applying any kind of discriminatory criteria, would provide a recognized, accepted and applicable structure that would establish compatibilities between convergent interests and common objectives and allow for case-by-case treatment.

As we said in this forum last year,

"the greatest challenge we are facing, and at the same time the greatest contribution we can make to seeing to it that this process of change will be, instead, a harmonious transition, is for us to accept the task of building a new foundation, of coming up with a new way of thinking." (348th meeting, p. 18-20)

In order to do that, we must seek mechanisms that will enable us to channel the spin-off benefits of space technology, including interaction, coordination and our ability to come together to establish the kind of relationship between countries and organizations, both public and private, and even between individuals that will enable us to bring together access to technology, financial systems, training schemes and implementation mechanisms - all aimed at producing concrete solutions to problems.

The overall criteria that should prevail in this new approach is the development of norms that will lead to the creation of an international space technology market to which we can all have access under equitable conditions.

Mr. MANDESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): The Romanian delegation considers agenda item 10 to be a very important one, particularly for small and medium-sized countries that have no space research programmes of their own. We should therefore like to thank the United Nations Secretariat for the study in document A/AC.105/486, "Spin-off benefits of space technology", which was requested by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at last year's session. We believe that it will remain the focal point for all kinds of future analyses of this question.

The study informs us that national or regional space agencies are making efforts to encourage the transfer and dissemination of spin-off technologies developed within the framework of space programmes to other sectors of the economy.

(Mr. Mandescu, Romania)

In coming years, several outer space laboratories are planned, and these will broaden the secondary applications of space research. It is therefore important that the Committee find a practical way to promote international collaboration and cooperation in this area, including legal instruments that will be favourable to all States. The participation of States in such a process will, of course, be very complex, for it will involve both producer and consumer countries - that is, States and private companies.

In conclusion, we suggest that the United Nations and its specialized agencies examine the possibility of organizing seminars to discuss this specific issue. We believe that the United Nations Secretariat could complete the remarkable study begun in document A/AC.105/486 by providing detailed specific information on organizations and private companies that possess space research facilities and access mechanisms.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Mr. KALENSKY (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)): As I mentioned earlier when presenting the general statement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the spin-off benefits of space technologies are increasingly being utilized by FAO in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The most important example of spin-off benefits of space technologies in FAO activities is the upgrading of the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food Security through the use of data from the environmental satellites. These satellites were designed for weather forecasting. About 10 years ago FAO started to experiment with the use of data from these so-called weather satellites for assessment of the risk of agricultural drought. Since

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

August 1988 the FAO Remote Sensing Centre has been producing operational reports on environmental conditions relevant to agricultural drought in Africa. The reports are prepared from the environmental-satellite data at 10-day and monthly intervals. Their main users are the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System and the food security systems of the International Group against Drought and Desertification (IGADD) and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in eastern and southern Africa, respectively.

Another example of the spin-off benefits of space technologies to FAO activities is the possibility for continuous monitoring of precipitation and vegetation conditions in the Sahel based on analysis of environmental-satellite data, with the objective of early identification of optimal conditions for outbreaks of desert locusts. This is done in close cooperation with the ground-based desert-locust-control operations, which obtain timely information about the development of new, high-risk habitats.

Data from environmental satellites combined with data from earth resources satellites are used by FAO for global assessment and monitoring of tropical forest cover within the framework of the multilateral Tropical Forest Action Plan. This project, whose objective is to stop the devastation of tropical forests and facilitate their sustainable management, could not have been implemented within the lifespan of this generation without the application of space technologies. The importance and urgency of the task is documented by the recent history of forest loss in the Middle Juba District of southern Somalia. In 1960, the extent of forest cover was 5,000 hectares; by 1984 it had declined to 2,000 hectares; and by 1986 there was only 400 hectares of forest cover left.

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

The spin-off benefits of space technologies are particularly well reflected in the use of satellite remote sensing and satellite global positioning systems in the thematic mapping of natural resources. Following the endorsement of last year's Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, FAO prepared a project document for vegetation and land-use mapping of Africa based on multi-level and multi-date satellite remote sensing. I have several copies of the project document with me. The maps will be at scales of 1:1 million for the whole of Africa and 1:200,000 or 1:250,000 for selected areas. Africa has so far benefited less than any other region from space technologies. Yet the appropriate application of these technologies can significantly speed up the completion of maps and inventories of natural resources and thereby provide the reliable baseline information urgently needed for the planning of the rational development of natural resources, their sustainable management and environmental protection.

There are many more examples to document the spin-off benefits of space technologies in FAO activities. These important activities either could not have been undertaken at all or their implementation could have taken much longer had space technologies not provided possibilities for fast data collection over large areas, capacities for the transmission and storage of high volumes of data, new digital image-analysis systems and so on. However, one of the most important spin-off benefits of space technologies is that for the first time in the history of mankind the Earth can be observed, monitored and analysed in its entirety. Global problems, such as food security in developing countries, economic underdevelopment and environmental protection, require global solutions. The space technologies offer powerful tools. To

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

make those tools available through pricing policies favourable to developing countries and to utilize them more vigorously than in the past for such peaceful, down-to-earth applications should now become one of the top priorities of the most-advanced industrial countries.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 10.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS

Ms. DAPUL (Philippines): My delegation would like to react to some remarks made yesterday during the course of the debate on the establishment of a legal framework for international cooperation.

Contrary to the perception that the motivation of those from the developing countries stems from the psychology of having been victims, we in the Philippines, as part of the developing world, regard cooperation and the sharing of resources and benefits as something to be desired - a common good. We believe this has historical and cultural roots. Before colonization occurred, many of our societies practised common land ownership and regarded nature, the land, the sea and the air as belonging to no one and to no particular group. The concept of private property was alien to our early ancestors. Access to the benefits of nature was a fact of life, and those underpinnings to our societies remain even today. We therefore do not have to apply great imagination in order to extend this concept to outer space.

Because we regard sharing and international cooperation as a desired goal of common good, we express this in the need to have the principle of international cooperation accepted in an appropriate legal framework.

My delegation finds it hard to comprehend why certain delegations cannot understand this legitimate concern. We particularly share the frustrations expressed yesterday by others from the developing world.

If, for the sake of argument, similar criteria were applied to the development of legal principles relating to other areas of the work of the United Nations, no progress would have been possible in the achievement of

(Ms. Dapul, Philippines)

perceived common good, say in the field of human rights. If the existence of local or national laws and treaties had been demanded as a criterion prior to the acknowledgement of the principle that torture and summary execution were not acceptable policies for dealing with political prisoners, the principle of the unacceptability of torture and summary execution would not have been enshrined as a principle in the existing Covenants governing civil and political rights.

To demand, therefore, of many impoverished developing countries to report on treaties and legal instruments governing activities in outer space is, to say the least, a little incredible. The analogy I can think of is demanding road maps comparable to those produced by the Automobile Association of America (AAA) in the truly remote, sparsely inhabited islands of the Philippines - where no roads exist.

The point we should like to underscore is that we cannot isolate what we are trying to achieve in this Committee from the overall work and purposes of the United Nations. As in the field of human rights, no force can forever impede the realization of the legitimate aspirations of peoples. We in the developing world see international cooperation as a dimension of the larger economic rights. To us, neither the United Nations nor this Committee exists to ensure the dominance of one State or group of States over another. History has shown that ideas of common good, no matter how strongly resisted, eventually prevail and endure.

Finally, let me add that it would be pure irony for my delegation to take seriously the controversy over the venue of meetings, whether in New York or in Geneva, and over the duration of such meetings when we perceive that the

(Ms. Dapul, Philippines)

matters impacting on the long-term survival of our nations are dealt with by certain delegations with less seriousness, less vigour and less enthusiasm than the tale of those two cities.

Mr. MURTHI (India): My delegation wishes to make a brief statement under the agenda item "Other matters" particularly covering various subjects such as International Space Year and the environment which are addressed in General Assembly resolution 45/72 in relation to the work of our Committee.

In that context we welcome paragraphs 19 and 20 of that resolution, which urge Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year, and call on Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year, to consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992.

We are happy to note the various activities planned by the United Nations in the context of International Space Year. We should like to express our support for these and to convey our appreciation of the contributions from various Member States. It is encouraging to note that the wide range of activities and programmes planned for International Space Year by various countries as well as international bodies provide opportunities for information exchange and participation for a number of countries. We recall the importance attached by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to including all countries in these programmes and to planning activities that would continue beyond 1992.

(Mr. Murthi, India)

In India a number of activities are planned to promote greater awareness and participation among national users of space technology. In addition, through participation in various international bodies such as the Space Agency Forum on International Space Year (SAFISY), the International Astronautics Federation (IAF) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), India has been contributing to various activities by sharing its experience and expertise, particularly that relevant in the context of developing countries.

In the context of International Space Year, India's space programme will endeavour to provide an increased number of opportunities for training for personnel from other developing countries through its sharing-of-experience programme, which will include assistance for free training and subsistence allowances for participants.

Considering the emerging focus on environmental studies involving the use of space technology, and taking into account the needs of global programmes such as the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the Indian Space Research Organization has made a proposal for undertaking an international cooperative mission called "Protection of the environment for assuring a cleaner Earth" (PEACE) through a series of polar orbiting satellites. That mission concept, which aims to promote cooperative participation and complementary efforts by various space agencies, also aims to provide for greater participation by developing countries in the endeavour to monitor the global environment through space systems. We have informed the Committee about this proposal on earlier occasions, and we hope the Committee will take appropriate note of it in its report and encourage interested member States to consider participating in such cooperative activities.

(Mr. Murthi, India)

We also note with appreciation that in response to the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee a presentation from the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was arranged during the current session, on preparations for the Conference. We stress the importance of the Committee secretariat continuing to inform the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on matters related to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that are also of relevance to the Conference. That information could also include activities planned by member States in the context of International Space Year that would complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Finally, recalling that paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 45/72 requests our Committee to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, it would be fitting for our Committee to respond suitably to that call. The Committee could remind its members to consider what forms that response could take.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): I should like to make a few brief comments under the agenda item "Other matters" with regard to the question of the venue of future sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

This matter has been with us for several sessions, and there are clearly differences of opinion. We have been open to those differences; unfortunately, others have not shown a willingness to be flexible or to take the matter seriously, as demonstrated by one rather lengthy intervention on Monday. I do not wish to engage in a debate on all portions of that statement, but I want to set the record straight. The quotations attributed to Mr. Herbert Reis, who was representing the United States at the time the General Assembly first considered this question, were taken out of historical context. My delegation objects to the manipulation of his remarks for self-serving purposes.

In any case, we want to respond to those who take the work of the Committee seriously and who have made good-faith efforts to address the concerns expressed on this issue by the General Assembly.

My delegation fully supports the General Assembly principle that United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters. We recognize that in the case of the Legal Subcommittee an exception to that general rule has been granted, allowing for alternate sessions to be held in Geneva. However, General Assembly resolution 44/201 B, Section III, requested the Committee to reexamine this practice bearing in mind the conclusion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that there is no compelling reason to continue the arrangement. In arriving at that conclusion the ACABQ noted that the holding of the Subcommittee's meetings in Geneva entails additional non-conference-servicing costs.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

But we also recognize, as I said before, that there is a wide divergence of views in this Committee on the desire to continue the rotation system. Bearing this in mind, my delegation would like to try to meet others half way so that we might come to some agreement at this session. What I would like to do is make a proposal, which could perhaps be reflected in the final report of the Committee. I propose that the Committee agree to defer making a final decision on the present practice of holding alternate sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva until its thirty-sixth session, to be held in 1993, when it can evaluate more fully the impact this practice has on the Committee's operations. In the meantime, and without prejudice to that final decision, the Committee would agree to hold the next session of the Subcommittee in Geneva and further agree that the Secretariat should support that session without incurring additional non-conference-servicing costs. Of course, we would then ask the Secretariat to inform the relevant United Nations committees of those decisions.

I offer that as a possible compromise on the issue concerning holding sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva, and I would welcome any further ideas or reactions.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): The Committee knows by heart the position of the French delegation on the matter of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee's meetings. My delegation always listens carefully to the reasoning behind arguments put forward by other delegations, often close to my delegation, in favour of positions that differ from those of the French delegation. There is an argument used by the representative of Australia and taken up by the representative of Japan to which I should like to return.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I said yesterday that I did not like that argument, and my dislike is even more intense today, because it amounts to saying that meetings should be held in New York because this is convenient for some delegations. That argument sounds at best like what the Americans call benign neglect and at worst what the French call arrogance, and ignores the interests of every delegation. I shall merely recall that the proponents of alternate sessions take the interests of delegations into account; sacrifices would be made by all sides.

Here is an example of the kind of inconveniences holding meetings in New York entails for France: Only one member of our delegation is based in New York. The Head of delegation and the four other members are based in Paris, which means a savings of five aeroplane tickets versus one.

I hope those delegations will drop that argument; as a European and as Head of the French delegation I find it invalid.

Turning to the statement by the representative of the United States, to which I listened with great interest, I think his proposal could serve as a good basis for next year's session, with a change in its provision regarding the Secretariat. The French delegation cannot make a return to Geneva conditional. Of course, we think it desirable for the Secretariat to make every possible effort to prevent a Geneva session from entailing additional costs. With that reservation, my delegation agrees with the solution offered by the representative of the United States.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I wish now briefly to address our working methods. I note that for some time this subject has been less contentious. We refrained from commenting on this matter when the atmosphere was less than satisfactory, but with the current return to calm, we can consider the question. During my brief tenure as Head of the French delegation, I have noted that significant progress has been achieved, particularly in the work of the Legal Subcommittee thanks to the work of its Chairman, Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, especially with respect to the organization of its working meetings and the better use of conference services. I have noticed too that this year in Graz our meetings have been starting earlier; that in itself is an achievement worth noting.

With respect to the work of the Legal Subcommittee - not its duration but its timing - my delegation notes that it is a pity that it coincides with the Easter season. I am told that this will not be the case next year, and my delegation hopes earnestly that the Secretariat will ensure that the Legal Subcommittee's work will no longer coincide with the Easter season and that the days thus saved will be deducted from the total duration.

On the question of a possible review of the length of the Legal Subcommittee's sessions, the French delegation believes that there is no reason to discuss this at present but that we should not exclude the possibility of discussing it some day, on the fundamental condition that if we were to shorten the session slightly - and my delegation does not believe this will happen in the near future - this should be done on the strict basis of equality among agenda items. In other words, no item would take precedence over others: a principle I think should underlie all our thinking on any possible reform or improvement of the work of our Committee, since such

(Mr. Boyer, France)

equality reflects the equality of the sovereign States members of the Committee. The principle of the equality of States demands that their wishes, as reflected in the work of the Subcommittee, always be scrupulously respected.

Mr. DUMITRIU (Romania): I am fully aware of the time constraints our Committee must observe, and I shall therefore be very brief.

As the views expressed here on the practice of holding alternate sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva are still divergent, I should like to say that my delegation is in favour of continuing that practice, based on a long-standing consensus agreement. We have to bear in mind that for many countries members of the Committee Geneva is a more convenient place to send their experts, and that our meetings in Geneva have often led to fruitful results.

Certainly the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) have some grounds, but I hope we can agree on one fact: the activities of our Committee are as important as those of other United Nations bodies and deserve the necessary assistance. I warmly thank other delegations sharing similar views on this subject.

As for the proposal of the United States delegation, we shall give it the most careful consideration; it appears to be a reasonable way towards a solution of this question.

Mr. TETU (Canada) (interpretation from French): My delegation has no objection to the system of rotating the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee between Geneva and New York. It seems to promote greater participation by some States in the Subcommittee's deliberations, and certainly, the "spirit of Geneva" - which was evoked earlier - seems to favour more intense

(Mr. Têtu, Canada)

concentration on the items before the Legal Subcommittee. Having said that, I would observe that the United States proposal sounds very reasonable. It would permit us, we hope, to make a final decision in 1993 after further study, and hence I would support it.

Mr. NOREEN (Sweden): Let me make a few comments on the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee. I think we would all agree that the present arrangement for the venue of the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees clearly favours New York. The Committee and its two Subcommittees have three sessions per year; that means six sessions over a two-year period. Five of those six sessions are held in New York - when, of course, we do not have the pleasure of being in the beautiful City of Graz.

That balance seems to my delegation to a large degree to have taken into account the cost-effectiveness argument that no doubt can be advanced in favour of New York. My delegation fully recognizes that, while at the same time maintaining that the present arrangement permits us to retain a European leg in Geneva for political and symbolic reasons.

I think the present arrangement is the most balanced solution, taking into account the differences of opinion that exist on this question and the economic and political arguments that can no doubt be advanced in favour of both New York and Geneva.

Having said that, my delegation very much welcomes the compromise proposal put forward today by the representative of the United States suggesting that we defer a final decision on the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee until the thirty-sixth session, in 1993, while at the same time agreeing to hold the next session of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva.

(Mr. Noreen, Sweden)

When it comes to the part of the compromise proposal that deals with the costs that would be incurred by having the Legal Subcommittee session in Geneva, it would perhaps be of some interest to the Committee and of some value to my delegation to hear the views of the Secretary on the question of what additional costs would be incurred by having a session in Geneva. As I understood the United States proposal, the suggestion was that no extra costs should be incurred by the Secretariat if we hold next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva.

The CHAIRMAN: When we have heard all the speakers on the list, I shall call on the Committee Secretary to respond to that question.

Ms. COURTNEY (Australia): I just want to clarify what I said yesterday, apparently arrogantly, about this question of the venue of Legal Subcommittee sessions: whether we should go to Geneva or New York. I must accept the judgement of arrogance since it comes, as the French representative himself said, from a country with some expertise in this area.

When I explained myself yesterday, I pointed out that a number of countries with small delegations have problems with continuity in servicing meetings both in Geneva and in New York. Indeed, if I might point to an example here, we find - even though we are all very grateful to be in Graz - that a number of countries could not attend because this session was held away from New York. It has been our experience that this applies also to Geneva, where a number of small delegations do not in fact have local representation. The same logic that says that every second year a session should be held in Europe would perhaps dictate that every second session be held in Africa or Latin America - or any other continent. That was my point.

In fact, I only expressed a preference. I was not pushing a strong case. This has traditionally been an argument between the United States and France. I think the United States made a proposal this morning which seems to be acceptable to the delegation of France; it is certainly acceptable to my delegation. I would agree with what was just said by the representative of Sweden. I would also be grateful if the Secretariat could clarify what is meant by non-conference-related costs.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to comment on this matter. First of all, for the past two years we have consistently said that Legal Subcommittee sessions should not coincide with Easter. We reaffirm that view and join with those who have expressed the same position. But we consider that holding the session during a non-holiday period should not shorten that session by even a single day. We believe it is the view of the majority of the developing countries members of the Group of 77 that the length of the Legal Subcommittee's sessions is not up for negotiation.

Secondly, in general terms my delegation is not hostile to holding sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva. A number of sessions have been held in Geneva and there has generally been a good working atmosphere there. Nevertheless, we feel that today's United States proposal that we defer consideration of this matter to 1993 is reasonable; it contains elements that require careful consideration, and my delegation joins other speakers in asking the Secretariat to acquaint us with the additional costs involved in holding meetings away from Headquarters.

Mr. FUJITA (Brazil): My delegation has its own views regarding the question of the venue of sessions of the Subcommittee, but we do not think it would be very useful at the moment to engage in this discussion in view of the fact that there is clearly a lack of consensus. We think the suggestion advanced by the delegation of the United States is worth consideration; it would give us some extra time to think the question over in greater depth with a view to reaching some conclusion at a later stage.

(Mr. Fujita, Brazil)

I should like to refer very briefly to the question of the duration of sessions, which was initially mentioned by the representative of France. I tend to agree with the representative of Chile that duration should be kept as it is for the moment. We should not try to shorten the duration of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees, even through the back-door system of deducting from that duration one supposed holiday. My delegation entirely supports the position expressed by Chile, that we should in no event think of reducing the duration of the session since it is not the number of days or meetings that will improve the working methods or results of the Subcommittee; it is more a matter of substance. What is necessary is that we improve and increase our political will to reach results in the work of the Subcommittee, not just try to find an easy way out by reducing the number of days.

Of course, some delegations might think of establishing some kind of quid pro quo between venue and duration; my delegation would not sympathize greatly with that kind of approach. Since we shall have some extra time to think over the question of venue, we would be prepared to consider that question on its own merits.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We listened with great interest to the brief but very expressive statement by the representative of the United States. I confess that when listening to the first part of the statement I sensed the Arctic chill of the very recent and all-too-well-known times when the audio system in our conference room was abuzz with accusations of manoeuvring, manipulation to further narrow selfish interests, propaganda and other self-serving ploys. I thought those times were behind us. It would be very sad if I were wrong.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

The representative of the United States is of course free to choose his own mode of expression. After all, each of us presents his arguments at whatever level he can.

For the sake of clarity, I want to repeat that in our statement on the report of the Legal Subcommittee we quoted exactly the verbatim record of the 107th meeting of the Committee, held on 15 December 1971. Our quotation came from the very beginning - the first five lines - of the statement made by the representative of the United States. He then spoke of cost-reductions, which led to the elimination of summary records for the Subcommittee. We did not take the quotation out of context; there was but one context: the outer space Committee convened in December 1971 specifically, in the words of the Chairman, to decide, once and for all, the matter of the venue for the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

If we are back to the same item once again, that is at least a sign of our continuity on the issue.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

The Soviet delegation believes that the consensus decision taken in 1971 is still applicable from the legal point of view. That decision was adopted by the Committee, approved by two sessions of the General Assembly and never formally rescinded by the Committee. If we wish to maintain continuity, we must adhere to the decision that we ourselves took. We must take into consideration the atmosphere in the Committee and the efforts made by all delegations to ensure that the spirit of compromise reigns in our work. While we do not reject the suggestion made by the representative of the United States, we would like to have more time to consider it. We do not object to including the relevant wording in the Committee's report, and would like to take the final decision on this issue at the time of adopting that report.

Mr. ZAWELS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): First of all, regarding the venue of the Legal Subcommittee, we are prepared to support the United States proposal that the Committee should study the matter carefully and take a decision in 1993. We also share the concerns expressed by the French delegation, which wanted to clarify the matter of costs. We would advocate a flexible solution, without any conditions attached.

May I now highlight two important aspects of the Committee's methods of work. I should like to share the concern expressed regarding what has become the custom of holding meetings of the Legal Subcommittee during the Easter period, which does not contribute to the efficiency of its work. We would thus urge that no effort be spared to avoid this practice in future. Our other comment concerns the scheduling of the Legal Subcommittee's meetings. In the context of the Special Political Committee, which considers the work of our Committee, there are two other committees, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and the Committee on Information. We do not think it would be asking too much of the Secretariat to endeavour to prevent meetings

(Mr. Zawels, Argentina)

of either of our Subcommittees or of the Committee from overlapping with the meetings of those other two Committees. We have already made this request in the two Subcommittees, and we understand that the respective secretariats have agreed to make such an effort. Moreover, we would ask our secretariats to act in coordination with the secretariats of those other bodies.

Finally, we do not wish to comment on the matter of duration for lack of any issue worth comment that has been raised in that regard. However, we would like to reserve our right to return to this question if any such issue is raised.

Mr. BONDE (United Kingdom): I, too, would like to comment on the matter of the venue for the meetings of the Legal Subcommittee and, in doing so, to support in particular the comments of the representatives of Japan, Australia and the United States. The United Kingdom bases its position on two aspects, the first of which is the practical one. The alternation of meetings between New York and Geneva creates a lack of continuity. The United Kingdom, like most Member States, is faced with the choice of its permanent representatives taking two weeks away from New York. This creates difficulties and a loss of continuity in their other work in New York. The alternative is for the Permanent Missions in New York to brief their capitals, with the resultant loss of feel for the issues involved and the continuity.

There is also the question of a lack of base support in Geneva. This problem applies both to the Member States themselves and to the Secretariat, which lose the benefit of the immediate availability of all the backup services and resources located in New York.

Finally, there is the financial aspect. The United Kingdom agrees with the comments expressed that New York is not necessarily cheaper or indeed more convenient for access by experts than Geneva. However, most Member States

(Mr. Bonde, United Kingdom)

cover the proceedings of the Legal Subcommittee from their Permanent Missions when it meets in New York. When the Subcommittee meets in Geneva, those Permanent Missions stay in New York, and extra resources have to be diverted to cover the Subcommittee's proceedings in Geneva. This is undeniably an extra and additional cost, which is perhaps not too much for European countries to bear, and Geneva is perhaps more convenient for access by European experts. However, it is certainly not the case for non-European countries, in particular member countries in Central and South America and in Australasia. There is also a direct loss to the United Nations itself, which must transfer support facilities from New York. The money saved could perhaps be spent more usefully, for example, on implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The United Kingdom delegation believes that, in order to reduce costs and to maximize the efficiency of the Legal Subcommittee, its deliberations should be held in New York on a regular basis. The United Kingdom therefore supports the compromise proposal suggested by the representative of the United States, and urges other Member States to give it similar support.

Ms. REDEKER (Germany): My delegation is very much in favour of the rotation system. To Geneva's credit is not only its well-known spirit, so often referred to, but also the fact that the European headquarters of the United Nations are located there.

As to the point made by the representative of Australia that the Committee does not hold meetings in Africa or Latin America, I should simply like to reply that other United Nations conferences are indeed held in Africa, for example, in Nairobi, where the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is located. Therefore, in accordance with the idea of equal regional distribution, Genveva represents the European headquarters. The discussion about alternating the venue between Geneva and New York is raised each year, and I do not think it is really fruitful.

The CHAIRMAN: On a point of clarification, I should like to state that there is a second seat of the United Nations in Europe - in Vienna - but that does not in any way interfere with the rotation between Geneva and New York.

Mr. POCAR (Italy) (interpretation from French): As a number of delegations have referred to the matter of the venue for meetings of the Legal Subcommittee, I should like to state our view on the subject.

Italy has consistently been open and flexible on the matter. However, we should like to point out that the practice followed thus far of holding meetings in New York or in Geneva does not appear to have given rise to any serious problems and seems to have been convenient to a number of delegations. That being said, and in view of the requests of several delegations that we should consider the implications of the matter in greater depth so as to be able to assess the situation, we can support the proposal

(Mr. Pocar, Italy)

made by the United States delegation bearing in mind the rider to that proposal made by the French delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to respond to the questions raised by several delegations.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): With regard to the question on non-conference servicing costs for holding meetings of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva, the figures given was $20,300, which covers the travel costs of the Secretariat servicing the Committee during its last session in Geneva, in 1990. There is a certain inflation factor that will be added to those costs for the 1992 session in Geneva, which is usual United Nations budgetary practice. That factor is somewhere in the range of 4 per cent to 5 per cent.

With regard to the comment of the representative of Argentina concerning the scheduling of the Committees that work in conjunction with the Special Political Committee, we will certainly try our best. Of course, we have already reserved the slots for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. As far as I know, this question has been brought to the attention of the Department of Conference Services, the Committee on Information and the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. They are all aware of it, and an attempt is being made to avoid overlap in scheduling such meetings. The Secretariat will see to it that such overlap is avoided, to the extent possible.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): First, I should like to express my appreciation to the delegation of France, in particular, and to the other delegations that find our proposal to be a reasonable one which could serve as a basis for consensus. While I share the views of the French

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

delegation concerning the organization of the Committee's future sessions, that is another issue.

I should like to turn to the information just provided to us by the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division. I appreciate that information but am somewhat confused because, while I understand that the last session in Geneva cost some $20,000 more, I was under the impression that a new request had been made concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, projecting a cost of $30,000 for non-conference servicing of the Geneva session. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): The total for the last biennium amounted to $28,000, but that figure included other travel, for example, to the inter-agency meeting in Geneva. However, the cost of non-conference servicing for the Legal Subcommittee last year was $20,000. The figure of $30,000 includes the inflation factor added to the amount of $28,000, the latter figure including costs for other travel. The amount for the Legal Subcommittee would be $20,000 plus the inflation factor, for a total of some $21,000.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I should like, through you, to thank the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division for that information.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Wednesday, 5 June 1991, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Other matters (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): While still in formal session, and taking advantage of the fact that the Rapporteur is next to me, I should like to make a brief statement concerning yesterday's Soviet statement on consultations on certain draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space that took place within the framework of the Committee.

Our main thesis yesterday was as follows: the work on agreeing upon the text and on developing it should clearly be carried out by the Legal Subcommittee, which should then submit its concrete results to the Committee so that here in the Committee we could proceed to a second reading of the Subcommittee's draft text. I should like to reiterate this position, which we believe to be the appropriate one.

However, given that the practical outcome of the last session of the Legal Subcommittee was zero, whereas during this session, at least informally, a high degree of consensus was reached on certain aspects of these principles, and given also that the delegations of Canada and Germany carried out considerable work during this session, the Soviet delegation, having somewhat reviewed its position of yesterday - and it always gives us pleasure when we review our position for the better - is prepared not to object to the approval by the Committee of the texts suggested by those two delegations on principles 8 and 9, if such is the will of all delegations.

Clearly, when the delegations of Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany produce the promised version of the working document, it would make sense to ask the representatives here whether the Committee could adopt by

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

consensus the part of this document on principles 8 and 9. The Soviet delegation would have no objection to such a procedure.

I should like once again to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work carried out by our friends Dr. Marietta Benko and Mr. Richard Têtu.

The CHAIRMAN: I have listened to this news with utmost pleasure, and I should like - preliminarily, since, members know, I am in the hands of the Committee - to express my gratitude to the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. TETU (Canada): My delegation welcomes this very significant breakthrough in the negotiations that have been taking place over the past eight days. I am extremely appreciative of the spirit of compromise that has prevailed throughout. I know we had to discuss a few points here and there so as to arrondir les angles, as we say in French. However, I must say that this is a very significant breakthrough and, again, I very much appreciate the change in position that was just expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Ms. REDEKER: There is really nothing I can add to what our colleague from Canada has just said, except that perhaps we could change the phrase "constructive spirit of Geneva" to the "spirit of Graz".

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): I think the constructive spirit of Graz does not conflict with the constructive spirit of Geneva or that of New York, for New York certainly has its own merits, which the French delegation has never questioned.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I simply wish to welcome the statement made by the Ambassador of the Soviet Union and to suggest that, as a follow-up to our work, we might draft a paragraph on a consensus that could be achieved at the very start of the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. The text of that paragraph could be annexed to the texts of principles 8 and 9.

I must say that, while the French delegation is quite pleased to see this consensus - towards which, after all, we did work as a co-sponsor of a text submitted to the Subcommittee's last session - the work and energy of our Canadian and German friends has led to amendment of the text. In the interests of certainty and a strict adherence to the rules, it would be helpful, before we give our consent, to have a text officially submitted by the Secretariat. It would appear that the French delegation would then be very pleased to join in an agreement on this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: As far as the question raised by the representative of France is concerned, the event - if I may call it so - will be duly reflected in the report.

Mr. PERRI (Brazil): I must say that, as a representative of Brazil to this Committee, I have no serious contention on the adoption of principles 8 and 9 by consensus here. But I have doubts about the procedure. I must say this because I have been saying so to the extraordinary representatives of Canada and Germany, who have worked so hard here in trying to obtain this consensus.

I do not object to it, but I do have doubts about the procedure and the method of negotiating this entire matter. I must say that I would prefer to have true multilateral negotiations and not negotiations delegation by delegation, as has occurred during this session and at the last few sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the main Committee.

(Mr. Perri, Brazil)

I would have preferred a different method of work. I would have preferred a true multilateral negotiation. I have trouble explaining to my country and my people how this consensus happened. I have serious trouble in explaining to my Government in Brasilia how this consensus is to be adopted here. I will try my best, but I have doubts that they will understand the procedure. As a representative, I must point out that the method of trying to arrive at a consensus delegation by delegation is not the best.

I suggest that, from now on, we adopt a different method of work. I feel free to say this because I have been saying so to my Canadian and German friends. Without objecting to the consensus on principles 8 and 9, I would say that, as a delegation, we have already reported to Brasilia the difficulties that confronted us during this session in negotiating this entire set of principles, which is of first priority for my Government. I feel that adopting principles 8 and 9 by consensus now does not preclude my country from discussing principles 1A and 4, which I understand are open for discussion, especially where they deal with the question of prior notification.

I have instructions from my Government to stress the need for having the elements of notification included properly in principle 4. I am afraid that I am lagging behind the negotiations, and if I am please let me know, because I will object to any consensus on principle 4 and on the absence of principle 2 if this is the trend of the Committee. That is a national position and an instruction that I must follow during this debate. In saying this, I am ready to adopt principles 8 and 9 by consensus, but I am not ready to go on negotiating this way.

The CHAIRMAN: The statement of the representative of Brazil gives me the opportunity to make the following points.

(The Chairman)

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the representative of Brazil, who has given a very important sign of compromise which, I hope, everyone in the Committee will honour because I know Brazil's position is clear. Therefore, in the light of what our colleague and friend from Brazil has said, we are very grateful to him.

Secondly, I would like firmly to commit myself to the fact that all delegations - and I underline all - should be fully included in the further stages of our opinion-building process on nuclear power sources and at every stage of opinion building on all other agenda items. I myself am a convinced democrat and I know that it is very important for all delegations to have the possibility to participate in this opinion-building process. I would therefore like to assure our colleague and friend from Brazil that I will take very careful note of what he has said. I would like again to reiterate my gratitude for the spirit of compromise and cooperation the Brazilian delegation has shown at this very crucial moment of our Committee's work.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): I fully understand the concerns expressed by the representative of Brazil, because I was actually in a rather similar situation last year as regards principle 8. A report was adopted in accordance with which the Committee noted that the text:

(spoke in English)

"would provide a good basis for near future consensus".

(spoke in French)

I made a reservation at that time, and at the 1991 session of the Subcommittee I had to exercise the prerogatives that are reserved for each representative to oppose a consensus when he did not agree with the text.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I wonder if the problem is not simply that, in such a case, every delegation must make it known whether or not it is in agreement. If the delegation is in agreement, it should make that known; and if not, it should not hesitate to say so. This may sometimes be unpleasant, but we must know how to make use of the rights provided us under United Nations procedure.

I have a few doubts as to the efficiency of a procedure that involves discussion in plenary meeting of this or that possibility for making progress. Experience shows that important texts have been adopted through informal consultations, the principle being that one can choose to participate in them or not. The question lies really in whether we should proceed in plenary meeting or in informal consultations.

On a strictly procedural level, although I fully agree on the substance, I continue to wonder whether it is fitting for the Committee to adopt by consensus a text that was not first adopted in consensus in the Legal Subcommittee. The report - and this is a personal opinion which I am prepared to withdraw should I be proved wrong - should reflect an agreement to the effect that principles 8 and 9 be adopted by consensus at the next session of the Subcommittee. At that time, each delegation will be able to reserve the right to withhold the consensus. This will provide sufficient guarantee to each delegation that multilateral negotiations - which, by definition, would be intense - are not needed and would lead to a deadlock in the discussions.

Those are my own personal thoughts. They are not instructions that I have received, but I believe that we must be concerned not only with the efficiency of work but also with the sovereign prerogatives of each delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: I have two additional points of clarification in the light of the statement of the Ambassador of France.

First of all, it is absolutely clear that the open plenary meeting is not necessarily a drafting exercise. But I am a fervent supporter of democracy, and that means exactly what the representative of Brazil has said. Of course, we can do that in informal consultations of the whole, where all delegations have the sovereign right - and I am sticking to this principle - to say whatever they have as instructions.

In answer to the Ambassador of France, with whom I agree, the form is of course that this should be done in informal consultations of the whole, where full conference facilities allow every delegation the possibility to express itself in the working languages of the United Nations. I believe that this is the appropriate way to do that.

As far as the second point made by the representative of France is concerned, I have already said that we shall adequately reflect the consensus found in the Committee on principles 8 and 9 in the language of the report. That resolves the problem and there will be no additional procedural problem on this matter.

Mr. TETU (Canada): I believe that your last comment, Sir, was very helpful. I merely wanted to add that, obviously, the Committee is master of its own procedures. If, as I see it - especially after having listened to the statement of the representative of Brazil, which I appreciated very much - there is indeed a consensus on those two principles, it should be reflected accordingly in the report. That is all I wish to say, and I am very grateful for the assistance you have provided to us, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ZAMELS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): There is little I wish to add, following your clarifications, Mr. Chairman, and those of the representative of Canada. I merely want to say that my delegation also welcomes the consensus that is building on principles 8 and 9. My delegation fully endorses them, although we cannot yet give a definitive opinion because we do not have the definitive text of these principles.

Our other concern was as to the procedure we were planning to follow in adopting these principles, but I believe that has now been clarified.

The CHAIRMAN: As I have said before, the agreement we reached preliminarily, taking into account the views of all delegations of this Committee - and all delegations here are on an equal footing and I am sticking to that principle - it will be duly reflected in the report.

Mr. HERNANDEZ BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico would like briefly to echo the words and ideas of the representative of Brazil. I would like to point out that my country, like many developing countries, does not use nuclear power sources in outer space. However, the subject is of great interest to us, for two main reasons.

First, we believe that other items inscribed on the agenda now and in the past had contributed to the progressive development of international law in outer space. That is a question of principle for my country, and we thank Canada, Germany and other countries that actively promote that progressive development. Secondly, although we are not users of nuclear power sources, we are a neighbour of one of the main space Powers our country, and Mexico, is very close to that Power's launching areas. In this respect, some aspects of these principles are of great interest to us, since their elaboration would give us a legal framework of equal value to United Nations resolutions that are guiding us towards international coexistence.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

Mexico does not have any specific or substantive proposal to make on principles 8 and 9, but we do have something to say about principle 7. In the case of an object carrying a nuclear power source accidentally re-entering Earth's atmosphere and causing damage to a country that is not the launching country, we share many of the concerns of Brazil and other countries as regards notification. We have made our preference known that notification should be made prior to launching. In this regard, at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee we supported the proposal put forward by Brazil that is reflected in the report.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

As I have said, we have no specific proposal for principles 8 and 9, but we do regret that the delegation of Mexico was not duly informed of the evolution of the informal negotiations that were carried out at this session. Like the delegation of Argentina, we are awaiting the definitive text, although thanks to our friend from Canada we now have a clearer idea as to how the latest consultations went.

The delegation of Mexico will not oppose the adoption of principles 8 and 9 by consensus here, and that will be reflected in the report. But we do wish Mexico's position on the matter to be made clear, as well as on the manner in which the negotiations were carried out.

Mr. ABDEL MONEIN (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): We welcome the consensus that has emerged on principles 8 and 9. However, we would have liked that consensus to have been reached in the usual way. In other words, each and every delegation should have been notified of the consensus, or a working group should have been constituted in order to find a solution in a formal or quasi-formal way before it was discussed in plenary meeting.

We believe that the three subjects before the Legal Subcommittee have equal importance and that agreement encompassing all three must be reached. Though there may be progress on one specific subject, we should reach agreement on all three without any precedence or priority being given to one over the other two, because the three combined are of importance to the international community as a whole.

From this standpoint, and since there is a possible consensus in the Committee, we wish first to note the importance of the observation made by the Ambassador of France regarding procedural matters and our method of work, with particular emphasis on the role of the Legal Subcommittee. Why can we not refer to that frankly and openly in the Committee's report?

(Mr. Abdel Monein, Egypt)

Secondly, we should not preclude the possibility of delegations making statements on principles 8 and 9 during the next session of the Legal Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN: I will of course take serious note of the remarks of the representative of Egypt.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): Naturally, I listened carefully to the statement just made by the representative of Egypt. I do not really see, however, how he can hope for agreement to be arrived at simultaneously on the geostationary orbit, on the new item and on nuclear power sources. I think that would be difficult to pull off.

I had asked some questions because I myself needed clarification, but I believe that they have been answered clearly and that - if I have correctly understood your words, Mr. Chairman - it is fitting that the Committee adopt these principles by consensus. Given that opinion, which could not be clearer, the French delegation feels that we could perfectly well seek a consensus on principles 8 and 9 at this session. Of course, any delegation is free to oppose it, if it so wishes. But since the French delegation's questions have been resolved, we feel that there is no need to postpone the search for consensus within the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I have made it perfectly clear - and that was just corroborated by the statement of the Ambassador of France - that, first of all, from the procedural point of view, it is correct that, with the agreement found on principles 8 and 9 - which is, I think, an important breakthrough - the reservations of many delegations will be taken into account. I am committed to these reservations, for instance those voiced by the delegation of Brazil, being duly reflected in the report. That is the right way to do it.

(The Chairman)

Secondly, as I have pointed out before, one of my serious concerns as the new Chairman of the Committee - and I think I am following a good tradition in this respect - is that, if we combine the clear democratic principle that all delegations enjoy equal footing with the principle of efficiency of the Committee and its Subcommittees, we will have to deal with such matters in informal consultations, as the representative of France has suggested. Such consultations will always be open-ended, which means that all delegations in the Committee will have the opportunity to participate in them. Certainly, on other important matters in the future - the representative of Mexico, for instance, alluded to the important concerns of his delegation on other principles on nuclear power sources - all delegations will be duly informed and will have the opportunity to take part in the opinion-building process.

May I request any other delegation wishing to speak at this stage to be very brief, so that we can immediately move on, in informal meeting, to consideration of the Committee's report.

Mr. TETU (Canada): I shall be very brief indeed. I think it is essential that we distribute a text as soon as possible to all of the delegations that have not necessarily been consulted directly by us or by the German delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretary of the Committee is in charge of distributing this text to all delegations as soon possible so that they may familiarize themselves with it.

We have just concluded our debate on "Other matters" and on important developments in the Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Thursday, 6 June 1991, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
- Concluding statements
- Closing statement by the Chairman
- Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to the adoption, section by section, of the Committee's draft report which we considered in informal session.

We turn first to document A/AC.105/L.192. We shall now consider Part I, "Introduction", which comprises paragraphs 1 to 17. May I take it that the Committee adopts Part I?

Part I of the draft report (A/AC.105/L.192) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we turn to Part II of the draft report, "Recommentations and decisions".

Section A, contained in document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.1 and Corr.1, is entitled "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes". It comprises paragraphs 1 to 8. May I take it that the Committee adopts Section A of Part II?

Part II, Section A, of the draft report (A/AC.105/L.192/Add.1 and Corr.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now turn to Section B, entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session; implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". This Section is contained in document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.2 and Corr.1. May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 1 and 2?

Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn next to paragraphs 3 to 8 of Section B. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 3 to 8 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider paragraphs 9 to 14. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragrahps 9 to 14 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take up paragraphs 15 to 17. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 15 to 17 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to paragraph 18. May I take it that the Committee adopts that paragraph?

Paragraph 18 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider paragraph 19. May I take it that the Committee adopts that paragraph?

Paragraph 19 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to paragraphs 20 to 22. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 20 to 22 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now consider paragraphs 23 to 25. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 23 to 25 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 26 to 32. May I consider that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 26 to 32 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to paragraphs 33 to 38. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 33 to 38 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider paragraphs 39 to 41. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 39 to 41 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 42 to 45. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 42 to 45 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we turn to paragraphs 46 to 48. May I consider that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 46 to 48 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 49 to 54. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 49 to 54 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider paragraphs 55 to 64. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragrahps 55 to 64 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now turn to paragraphs 65 to 71. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 65 to 71 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider Section C, entitled "Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session". This Section is contained in document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.3 and Corr.1. May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 1 and 2?

Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider paragraphs 3 to 14. I call on the Rapporteur, who wishes to make a statement on paragraph 6.

Mr. PERRI (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee: I should like to clarify that there will be a paragraph 6 quater that includes a summary of a statement made by the representative of the United States. As there is only one copy of the summary, I shall read it out to the Committee. Paragraph 6 quater would read as follows:

"The view was expressed that consensus on draft principles 8 and 9 had been joined on the understanding that, once agreement had been reached on all of the principles, the Subcommittee would address outstanding issues such as the use of the terms 'should' and 'shall' and would consider whether any adjustments would be necessary to ensure that the principles are properly interrelated and balanced and would have their intended effect.

"The view was also expressed that the changes in principle 9 since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee simply clarify the understanding that the relevant liability and compensation provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects should apply, as provided, to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space".

Mr. HODGKINS (United States of America): I wish to recall that it had been agreed to insert the following statement for the record:

"I have taken the floor at this time to make a few brief comments on the proposal that the Committee record consensus on principles 8 and 9. My delegation understands the frustration expressed by some delegations with the process by which consensus is recorded at the Main Committee on one or two of a set of principles before that consensus has been recorded

(Mr. Hodgkins, United States)

by the Legal Subcommittee. None the less, all of the members of this Committee share the desire to achieve progress in the completion of a full set of principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and, Mr. Chairman, as you have correctly pointed out, this Committee clearly has the authority to record such a consensus.

"It is in that spirit that my delegation expressed the view that it was prepared to join consensus on principles 8 and 9 as they have been developed through informal consultations on the margins of this session under the able leadership of the delegates of Canada and Germany. In joining such consensus, the United States delegation underscores for the record that this consensus is joined with the understanding that, once agreement has been reached on all of the principles, the Subcommittee will address outstanding issues such as the use of the terms 'should' or 'shall'. At the same time, the Subcommittee would also be in a position to consider whether any adjustments are necessary in order to ensure that the principles are properly interrelated and balanced and that they will have their intended effect.

"Finally, my delegation would comment briefly on its understanding of the changes that have been introduced in principles 8 and 9 since their consideration by the last meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. We would note that principle 8 reflects the progress that had been recorded on this principle at the last meeting of the Main Committee, the report of which is contained in document A/45/20, in particular paragraph 104. One small organizational change has been made in that principle: combining two paragraphs into a single paragraph.

(Mr. Hodgkins, United States)

"The major changes to principle 9 occur in paragraph 1 of that principle. In the view of my delegation, these changes are simply clarifications that do not change the substance of this principle as it was presented and considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its last session. These modifications simply clarify the understanding that the relevant liability and compensation provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1972 Liability Convention should apply as provided to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

"Paragraph 2 of principle 9 remains identical to the comparable provision presented to and considered at the last meeting of the Subcommittee. Paragraph 3 was revised slightly without affecting the essential substance of that provision as it relates to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space."

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I requested to make a statement just to reconfirm for the record our understanding that the item on nuclear power sources on the agenda of the next session of the Legal Subcommittee would be entitled, "The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles".

Mr. ABDEL MONEIN (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to recall that it had been agreed to insert the following sentence into this Section of the draft report:

"The view was expressed that the existing consensus on these two principles does not preclude their consideration by delegations during the next session of the Legal Subcommittee."

Mr. PERRI (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee: I confirm that the sentence to which the representative of Egypt refers has been included in the draft report as approved in our informal meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Committee is now prepared to adopt paragraphs 3 to 14 of Part II, Section C of the draft report?

Paragraphs 3 to 14 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 15 to 24. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 15 to 24 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider paragraphs 25 to 33. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 25 to 33 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to Sections D, E, F, G and H, contained in document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.4.

Section D is entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status". May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 1 to 9?

Paragraphs 1 to 9 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider Section E, entitled "Other matters". Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 10 and 11?

Paragraphs 10 and 11 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider Section F, entitled "Future work". May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 12 to 19?

Paragraphs 12 to 19 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We come now to Section G, entitled "Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies". May I consider that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 20 to 22?

Paragraphs 20 to 22 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Finally, we come to Section H, entitled "Tributes". May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 23 and 24?

Paragraphs 23 and 24 were adopted.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With reference to section H, may I respectfully request you, Mr. Chairman, to write personal letters conveying the contents of paragraph 23 to the authorities mentioned therein and of paragraph 24 to Mr. Peter Jankowitsch.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of the Soviet Union will be pleased to learn that I have already written such letters, which include the texts of the Committee's decisions.

We have thus come to the end of the draft report. May I take it, then, that the Committee adopts the draft report, as a whole?

The draft report, as a whole, was adopted.

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Ms. DAPUL (Philippines): On behalf of the Asian States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space I should like to express our satisfaction at the exemplary manner in which you, Sir, have conducted the deliberations of the Committee.

(Ms. Dapul, Philippines)

We extend special thanks and gratitude for all the efforts of the whole Secretariat in servicing this session - including the conference officers, technical support staff and, especially the translators, who we understand have laboured overnight to make the successful conclusion of this session possible today.

We cannot forget to express our sincere appreciation to the people and the authorities of Graz and Styria and to the Government of Austria for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements they provided. We will surely carry home beautiful memories of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Today the Committee bids farewell to the City of Graz; these occasions are always touching in their sadness. Naturally, our first words must be words of gratitude to the Government of Austria and the Styrian authorities for the attention they devoted to the Committee and the care they took of us. I wish in particular to thank Ms. Friessnigg of the Austrian delegation, who was responsible for organizing these meetings. I sincerely want her to know that her labours were not in vain: everything went without a hitch.

I think we shall all remember yesterday's reception given by the Governor of Styria, even though he himself could not attend. That reception and everything connected with it was suffused with a romantic mist that will remain in our minds for a long time to come.

I must also stress the important fact that in Graz the Committee not only admired the beautiful landscape and enjoyed the local wine and cuisine, but also worked very well here. The first week was exemplary in terms of our use of time: we lost no more than two hours as I recall, which has not often been the case in the Committee's history.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

Moreover, the Committee was able to adopt the legal texts of draft principles; nor does this often happen at Committee sessions. In fact I am tempted to dub those draft principles the "Gracious Graz principles". The point is that it was in the City of Graz that that became possible.

Nor can I ignore the final fact that we worked very closely in Graz. We spent far more time side by side together than usual, which gave us a chance to get to know and understand one another better. Our lives were enriched and made more interesting.

In short, Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you on a successful session. I express the modest hope that in a few years we will be able to hold another session in Graz. I hope, too, that the Graz authorities have been infected by the space bug and that the Styrian Government, at the highest levels, will maintain its interest in space matters.

We leave the City of Graz with very warm feelings and the hope that we shall be returning again.

Mr. FUJITA (Brazil): On behalf of the member and observer States from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I too wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the efficient way in which you have conducted our work during the present session. I think this has been a very productive session; important results were achieved. Great credit for these results lies with the skillful, businesslike, efficient way in which you conducted our work.

I should like also to extend our thanks for the cooperation of delegations from other regions and for the constructive, flexible way in which they approached the many important items we discussed. We thank also the Committee officers, the Secretariat, interpreters, translators and conference officers, without whose support our task would have been much more difficult.

(Mr. Fujita, Brazil)

Finally, I should like also to thank the Austrian authorities and the authorities and the people of Styria and Graz for the excellent, hospitable way in which they received the Committee. In fact, coming from a country that attaches great importance to the environment, I think the environment of Graz was very conducive to the kind of understanding we experienced. This has been a fortunate event that will remain in our memories for a long time to come; as Ambassador Maiorski said, Graz will have a special place in our memory. In my delegation's opinion, it was the "spirit of Graz" that prevailed in our work.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): In place of the representative of Italy, I am speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States. I wish warmly and sincerely to express our gratitude for our reception here in Graz.

Austria holds a special place in the minds of people. As an old diplomat it shames me to have to admit that this is my first visit to Austria. But I went to school and to university, and I have kept my eyes open, which enabled me to form an opinion about this country based on all I have read. My image of Austria was one of lightness, culture, seriousness, graciousness. And miracle of miracles, my preconceptions meshed totally with the reality. This was a special moment for me, a moment when I saw that my beliefs truly reflected reality.

On behalf of the Group, Sir, I address to you our most particular thanks. Under your smiling, ever-present, always solicitous guidance, the work of the Committee proceeded at a most satisfactory pace. We were even more efficient than usual. We achieved tangible results, and we depart Graz richer by the promise of things to come.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

Of course, this copious work was encouraged by the atmosphere here: the cordiality, good nature and hospitality of the regional and local authorities - the Governor and the Mayor. The Austrian authorities did everything possible to facilitate our work. My Group would be grateful, Mr. Chairman, if you would convey our heartfelt thanks to those authorities.

We know that meetings away from headquarters in Europe or New York involve a greater than normal work-load for the Secretariat. I therefore cannot fail to convey my Group's thanks to the Secretariat.

We have had happy hours of fellowship and hard work, and I repeat that this has been a most felicitous session.

Mr. SADEK (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): The Groups of Arab and African States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space wish to thank you, Sir, for having guided the work of the Committee with remarkable success. This is a sign that under your chairmanship our annals will swell with achievements.

We thank the Secretariat for its performance, which was excellent especially considering that the session was held away from Headquarters. Yet we think that among the reasons for the session's success were the very site of the meeting - the beautiful City of Graz - and the very kind hospitality of our hosts, the people of Austria.

We thank the translators and, in particular, the interpreters, who we believe carried out their functions in the best possible manner.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to take a brief moment before closing the thirty-fourth session of the Committee to thank all my dear colleagues. If we really can speak of a "spirit of Graz" we should be encouraged to work very

(The Chairman)

actively in the future on all outstanding subjects. As we all know, we have quite a lot on the agenda of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

I want to assure members in that context that I personally believe that the spirit of a relatively small city - which is extremely open-minded with regard to all regions of the world and which is extremely exposed geographically in terms of our borders - should inspire us all in the future to take into account that we need to complete some of our items that may be overdue for completion or ripe for discussion. I personally would like to say to members in that context that as Chairman I am absolutely at their disposal and will certainly do my utmost to help them in coming to possible consensus solutions to open questions.

I am not naive; I know very well that we still have very difficult subjects to deal with not only in the main Committee but, specifically, in our sub-bodies. As I did yesterday, I assure members that I shall deal with those matters in a spirit of absolute democracy. I believe in this principle; it was not easy for my country to make one of our main achievements: democracy after a very dark period of our history. We have had a chance to work since then, and members have had a chance to see a little of what can be achieved on the regional level as well.

That should encourage us for the future to continue. Whether in Geneva or in New York we have sufficient opportunity to prove that we can maintain a little of the spirit that brought us together here - perhaps, as was pointed out in some of the closing statements, because we were very close to each other. Even if we are outside Graz, if we are back in New York or Geneva meeting in our sub-bodies and in the main Committee, let us not forget this.

(The Chairman)

I take this very seriously, and recalling what my predecessor said in his final statement before resigning from this important post I think we should take it as an inspiration.

I address my deepest gratitude first of all to the members of the Bureau. I thank the Vice-Chairman of the Committee who had to return to Bucharest because of an important task there. I thank especially the Committee Secretary and Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, Mr. Jasentuliyana, Mr. Lala, Deputy Secretary of the Committee, and my very dear friend Mr. Flavio Perri, Rapporteur of the Committee, who have carried out an enormous task: I know very well how difficult it is to coordinate our work.

My thanks, of course, go also to Dr. Abiodun. For years he has tried to reconcile the factors mentioned by the representative of France: imagination and reality. That is not very easy because as we all know he does not have great financial means at his disposal. But that underlines the degree of creativity and courage he displays in his important work.

We all know how important all the people seated behind me on the podium are. I thank them all very cordially. Then there are those who were farthest from our work in terms of their working places and who had to overcome extreme difficulties: the interpreters and the translators. I wish to tender a specific expression of gratitude to them; there were moments when I really thought them heroes. They are heroes in other bodies as well; as Austria is now a non-permanent member of the Security Council I have seen just how difficult their work can be. My thanks further go to the press officers and the technical staff, who worked so ably during our session.

(The Chairman)

This brings our session to an end. I thank all members for their cooperation. We have done a lot but, encouraged by our achievements at this session, I hope we shall rise to further and even more substantive results in the future.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I declare closed the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.